

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re U.S. Patent Application of )  
 )  
MUROTANI et al. )  
 )  
Application Number: To be assigned )  
 )  
Filed: Concurrently Herewith )  
 )  
For: DISK ARRAY APPARATUS AND DISK ARRAY )  
 APPARATUS CONTROL METHOD )  
 )  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. ASAM.0119 )

Honorable Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**REQUEST FOR PRIORITY  
UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119  
AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

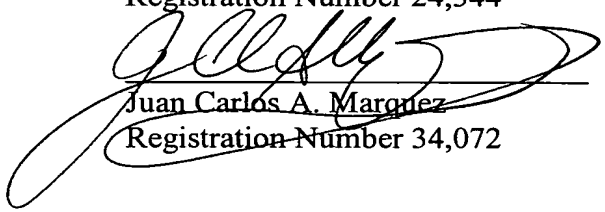
Sir:

In the matter of the above-captioned application for a United States patent, notice is hereby given that the Applicant claims the priority date of February 16, 2004, the filing date of the corresponding Japanese patent application 2004-038169.

A certified copy of Japanese patent application 2004-038169, will be submitted as soon as it is received from Applicant. Acknowledgment of receipt of the certified copy is respectfully requested in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

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